

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-10 contain allowable subject matter. By this amendment, Applicants note that the subject matter recited in claims 3 and 4 has been substantially incorporated into claims 1 and 2, respectively.

In particular, Applicants note that claims 1 and 2 have been amended to recite the feature of a gain command unit for determining a plurality of speed ranges divided by a predetermined reference value and designating a loop gain of a clock extracting circuit in accordance with a range signal indicating in which one of the speed ranges the speed signal outputted from the speed sensor falls. Applicants submit that the subject matter embraced by amended claims 1 and 2 is clear, and that Applicants have not otherwise indicated that the invention is to be of a scope different from that defined in the claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 2 are in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 2 are in condition for allowance, an indication of which is kindly requested.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, Applicants note that each of these claims has been amended so as to recite that the gain command unit has a plurality of predetermined reference values. As claims 3 and 4 depend from claims 1 and 2, respectively, Applicants submit that these claims, as well as claims 5-10, are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 3-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite.

As noted above, claims 3 and 4 have been amended to recite that the gain command unit has a plurality of predetermined reference values. Applicants respectfully submit that subject matter embraced by claims 3 and 4 is clear, and therefore, submit that claims 3 and 4 are in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Regarding claims 5-10, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter embraced by these claims is also clear, and therefore, submit that claims 5-10 are also in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants kindly request that the rejection of claims 3-10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph be reconsidered and withdrawn.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katoh (U.S. 6,088,311) in view of Ishibashi (U.S. 6,175,542); and claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katoh in view of Ishibashi and Okadu (U.S. 6,175,542).

As noted above, claims 1 and 2 have been amended so as to substantially incorporate the features recited in allowable claims 3 and 4. In particular, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to recite the feature of a gain command unit for determining a plurality of speed ranges divided by a predetermined reference value and designating a loop gain of a clock extracting circuit in

accordance with a range signal indicating in which one of the speed ranges the speed signal outputted from the speed sensor falls.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of cited prior art references does not teach, suggest, or otherwise render obvious such features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 2 are patentable over the cited prior art, an indication of which is kindly requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Masayoshi NAKAMURA et al.

By: Kenneth W. Fields
Kenneth W. Fields
Registration No. 52,430
Attorney for Applicants

KWF/dib
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
January 12, 2006